



LEAD - testing program to minimize impacts of lead and other contaminants

In response to the recent events that have emerged regarding public health concerns associated with Flint Michigan's drinking water system, the Buffalo Water Board would like to ensure its customers that the City of Buffalo maintains and operates a safe and reliable drinking water supply.

Buffalo's drinking water comes from Lake Erie, which is considered to be an excellent source water as it is considered non-corrosive and easily treatable. Furthermore, the treatment plant's raw water intake is located in Lake Erie's Emerald Channel which is known for superior clarity and reliable water quality. It is important to note that while trace amounts of lead exist naturally in the environment, our rigorous treatment processes combined with extensive testing and analysis give us assurance that our water is in compliance with, and often exceeds regulatory requirements.

In aged water systems, lead may be present in service lines, plumbing fixtures, faucets and valves. In some systems, when drinking water has been in contact with plumbing or service lines containing lead, the lead may corrode (and leach) into the water.

To reduce the potential of this occurring in Buffalo's distribution system, Buffalo Water has taken a proactive approach to minimize the corrosion and leaching of lead from service connections and plumbing systems into the drinking water supply by adding a phosphate-based corrosion inhibitor. The addition of the phosphate-based corrosion inhibitor creates a protective layer inside service connections and plumbing systems, minimizing the potential for contaminants such as lead to leach into drinking water.

Buffalo Water maintains a comprehensive lead monitoring program that routinely tests drinking water in homes throughout the City, in accordance with regulatory requirements. Test results are within federal drinking water standards, and are a direct result of Buffalo Water's proactive effort to minimize corrosion in the drinking water system by adding a corrosion inhibitor as part of the overall treatment process. A summary of the test results are published in the Consumer Confidence Report distributed to customers each spring.